(c) whether the meet saw hope of improving political relations with China despite the border dispute;

(d) what is the status of the border dispute and how Government hopes to settle it; and

(e) does the Government hope to push economic relations, putting the border dispute in the backburner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (e) The 5th Asian Security Conference on "Asian Security and China in the period 2000-2010" was organised by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi from 27th to 29th January, 2003. India-China relation was not per se included in the theme of discussions at the Conference. However, while delivering the concluding address there, Raksha Mantri had expressed optimism that India and China would arrive at consensus through continuous dialogue and accommodation of competing interests in the near future. He had also observed that China had made good progress on economic front in the last two decades and India might learn a lesson from them on this front.

Although contentious issues like the boundary problem between the two countries are to be settled, the economic relation between them has been showing an upswing.

As regards boundary dispute between India and China, the two sides have been discussing the boundary question based on the institutional framework provided by the two Agreements signed by them in 1993 and 1996 with the objective of seeking a mutually acceptable settlement of the issue.

Use of Dolphins to blow up enemy warships and submarines

3412. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Navy is all set to use dolphins to blow up enemy warships and submarines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has gone into any study before making a maiden attempt in this direction;

(d) how fruitful will this attempt be ;

(e) has any country earlier atempted this; and

(f) is yes, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

(e) Not known.

(f) In view of (e) above question does not arise.

Medium of entrance exam. for admission to RIMC

†3413. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had given an assurance in the meeting of Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry on 20th November, 2000 that he would take action on the demand of making an option of Hindi question paper in place of only English question paper in the entrance examination of standard VIIth of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun; and

(b) if so, action taken/proposed to be taken on this assurance so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) RIMC entrance written examinations are conducted twice in a year during June and December under arrangement of All State Governments and UT Administrations. The candidates are examined in three subjects in written examination i.e. English, Mathematics and General Knowledge. Since June, 2001, the question papers for the entrance examination of RIMC, Dehradun are made available in bi-lingual (English & Hindi) or even in regional languages based on the demand by States Except for English paper. As such, the assurance given by the Defence Minister is being implemented.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.